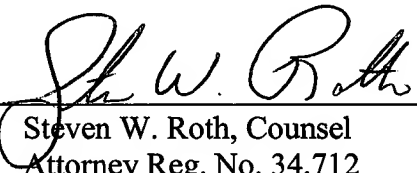


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is requested. Claims 1-4, 11, 12, 17, 24, 34, 35, and 40 have been amended. Claims 16, 20-23, 27, 39, and 43-45 have been cancelled. Claim 53 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-15, 17-19, 24-26, 28-38, 40-42, 46, and 48-53 remain in this application.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims (i.e., claims 1-15, 17-19, 24-26, 28-38, 40-42, 46, and 48-53) are in condition for allowance and that the application should be passed to issue. The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would expedite or aid in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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